

NNNNV ESA12700678  
PP RUHMR  
DE RUESELK 07700 321430  
ZNY 00000 12H  
P R 251127Z OCT 79

003349

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO RUHNO/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6253  
INFO RUHJPC/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2516  
RUSBCO/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 9466  
RUFEBE/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0043  
RUOTU/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1867  
RUENFO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0211  
RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 7577  
RUPNPO/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0316  
RUMHMR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 0571  
RUHNGA/CINCPAC  
BT

REL  
ENRG  
ECON  
AF  
CHEN

CONFIDENTIAL KABL 7706

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

2.0. 1200Z: GDS 10/25/79 (TAYLOR, JAMES E.) OR-P  
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, PINT, AF, UR, GE  
SUBJ: (LNU) NEW EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO REPLACE CENTRAL  
FIGURE IN LAST SUMMER'S REPORTED ATTEMPT TO BROADEN  
REGIME'S POLITICAL BASE

REF: KABL 6389 (407AL)

1. (C) SUMMARY: A NEW EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN NAMED  
TO KABL TO REPLACE HERMANN SCHWIESAU, A CENTRAL FIGURE  
HERE IN LAST SUMMER'S PURPORTED SOVIET ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE  
KHALISI REGIME "BROADEN ITS POLITICAL BASE." WHETHER THERE WAS  
ANY FIRE BEHIND THAT POLITICAL SMOKE REMAINS UNCLEAR, BUT  
THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THEN PRIME MINISTER HAFIZULLAH  
AMIN, THE REPORTED TARGET FOR THIS "CAMPAIGN" FOR WHICH  
SCHWIESAU WAS A MAJOR ROUNDPiece, KNEW ABOUT THE AFFAIR. SCHWIESAU  
ABRUPTLY DEPARTED KABUL ABOUT THE TIME IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT  
AMIN'S POWERS WERE NOT BEING CURTAILED, BUT FIRM EVIDENCE  
REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIS DEPARTURE AND  
REPLACEMENT HAS NOT YET COME TO LIGHT. AT ANY RATE, FOR THE  
SHORT TERM AT LEAST, THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE CHOICE  
BUT TO BACK AMIN'S EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE THE REVOLUTION.  
END OF SUMMARY.

2. (LNU) ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 24, THE DRA ANNOUNCED  
THAT IT HAD GIVEN AGREEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF KRAFT  
BUNBEL (AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES INSIST THAT IS THE  
CORRECT SPELLING) AS THE NEW AMBASSADOR OF THE GERMAN DEMO-  
CRATIC REPUBLIC TO KABUL. NO FURTHER DETAILS ARE INCLUDED  
IN THE BRIEF REPORT.

3. (C) COMMENT: BUNBEL REPLACES FORMER DRA AMBASSADOR HER-  
MANN SCHWIESAU WHO WAS A CENTRAL FIGURE IN LAST SUMMER'S  
REPORTED SOVIET "CAMPAIGN" TO PERSUADE THE DRA LEADERSHIP TO  
"BROADEN ITS POLITICAL BASE OF SUPPORT." ALONG WITH SOVIET  
MINISTER-COUNSELOR VASILY SAFKONCHUK, SCHWIESAU AT THAT  
TIME WAS EXTREMELY OUTSPOKEN WITH HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES  
REGARDING THE DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE KHALISIS, AND ES-  
PECIALLY ABOUT THE DRA'S NEED TO BROADEN ITS SUPPORT WITHIN  
THE COUNTRY. SOME UNCONFIRMED REPORTS WERE MADE THAT AN  
INTEGRAL PART OF THIS ALLEGED SOVIET EFFORT WAS THE THEORY  
THAT THEN PRIME MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN'S POWERS HAD TO BE  
CURTAILED, SINCE HE WAS THE PERCEIVED VILLAIN BEHIND THE DRA'S  
REPRESSIVE AND RADICAL POLICIES.

11. 10) AS TIME PASSED, AMIN'S REAL POLITICAL POWER APPEARED TO INCREASE, DESPITE THE VISIBLE EFFORT TO CLIP HIS WINGS, AND AMIN SHOWED SEVERAL PUBLIC HINTS THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE SOVIET TRANSFERING WHICH DAFRACHOVUK AND SCHWIESAU WERE PLEDGING ALL OVER IN 1978. NOT LONG AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT AMIN'S POWER WERE NOT DECLINING, SCHWIESAU REPORTLY DEPARTED KABUL, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE HE HAD SUFFERED A BROKEN LEG WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SIX MONTHS IN HOSPITAL TO HEAL. OUR OWN COLLEAGUES WERE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT IN THE INTERIM THAT SCHWIESAU WOULD NOT RETURN TO KABUL TO TAKE UP HIS AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT.

12. 10) AS WITH MOST ELEMENTS OF THIS MURKY STORY, THE REASONS BEHIND SCHWIESAU'S APPOINTMENT ARE NOT CLEAR, AND SCHWIESAU'S PERMANENT DEPARTURE COULD HAVE SEVERAL EXPLANATIONS. THE MOST OBVIOUS IS THAT HIS MEDICAL PROBLEMS HAVE REQUIRED THE GOR TO FILL THE VACANCY HERE, FAR BETTER THAN TO WAIT FOR SCHWIESAU'S FULL RECOVERY. ANOTHER EXPLANATION IS THAT SCHWIESAU HAD SERVED HIS PURPOSE IN AMBASSADORIAL THE SAFET CAREN, AND THAT HIS DEPARTURE AS A RESULT OF HIS WOUND WERE NO LONGER NEEDED IN KABUL. IT COULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE THAT AMIN, THE SUPPOSED PRINCIPAL TARGET OF SCHWIESAU'S OPPOSE THE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION THROUGH POLITICAL MEANS, WANTED SCHWIESAU'S ABRUPT DEPARTURE POSSIBLY AS A POLITICAL MOVE THAT WAS WAS, IN FACT, A LEADER OF THE ANTI-AMIN MOVEMENT. HE HAD NO INTENTION OF VOLUNTARILY RELINQUISHING HIS POSITION IF HIS CLOSE FRIENDS THE SOVIET INFLUENCES WERE NOT MOVING BEHIND THE SCENES TO BRING ABOUT HIS DEPARTURE. IN ANY CASE, THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT SCHWIESAU'S ABRUPT DEPARTURE AND REPLACEMENT WOULD WELL HAVE BEEN IN SOME WAY FLUCTUATING AND NOT NECESSARILY MOTIVATED. WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE, AS A RESULT OF THE OTHER AMBASSADORIAL VACANCY IN KABUL, THE SOVIET WENT TO HAVE A LITTLE SHORT-TERM OFFICE BUT TO SUPPORT AMIN IN HIS ATTEMPT TO KILL THE DOMESTIC INSURGENCY AND CONSOLIDATE THE SECURITY OF THE REVOLUTION.

END

13. 10)

14. 10)